GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5961
ANSWERED ON:08.09.2011
DEFINITION OF RAPE
Jagannath Dr. M.

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to change the definition of rape taking into consideration the increase in number of rape cases in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW & JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID)

(a)to(c): The Law Commission of India in its 172nd Report on `Review of Rape Laws` has recommended changes for widening the scope of the offence in Section 375 IPC to replace the word `Rape` with `Sexual Assault` and to make it gender neutral. The National Commission for Women (NCW) has separately forwarded a private bill on the same subject to the Government, recommending that the word `Rape` be replaced with `Sexual Assault` in Section 375 of IPC and to widen the scope of the offence prescribed therein.

As the provisions relating to rape and crimes against women are sensitive in nature, a High Powered Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Union Home Secretary to examine the issue on review of rape laws and to finalize the Bill in the matter. The Committee has submitted its report alongwith a draft Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2011 and recommended to the Government for Its enactment.

Government is examining the bill. No time frame has been fixed in this regard.